CROSBY POST

JULY 1953 - PRIVATE JOURNAL OF THE CROSBY SOCIETY.- VOL. 2 NO. 4.

THE STAR SPANGLED SALUTE BROADCAST ON THURSDAY JUNE 4th .....

This special Coronation week radio show featured many famous American stars and the highlight was Bing Crosby's 'phone call from Paris. He said he was having a grand time in France with Lin. He was planning to come over to England and, with Lindsay, would tour our many golf courses. He had bought a 'little' car for the trip. He sang one song, "Dear Hearts and Gentle People" to the really fine accompaniment of John Scott Trotter on the piano.

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL.

BING:-"What are you working for with all your dough? Don't you know you can't take it with you?"
BOB:-"Well, if I can't take it with me, I know one thing I'll come back and get it later."
BING:-"Do you think it'll be worth the climb up?"

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ENTERPRISING CROSBY.

An old complaint of TV viewers that filmed shows are not as clear as live telecasts from the studio has been remedied by Bing Crosby Enterprises in Hollywood.
The Crosby technicians have come up with a tape - like that which is used in tape recorders to-day - but this tape faithfully records and reproduces picture and sound as well.
The Crosby technicians claim that this new tape system gives pictures of the same quality as the usual live telecast.
It is hoped that Bing will adopt this tape idea for forthcoming American TV shows.

The CROSBY SOCIETY

Established 1950.

Honorary President:
BING CROSBY.

Honorary Vice President:
LARRY CROSBY.

Sole Honorary Member
JIM WILSON.

Active Presidents
JEAN RAINEY,
ARTHUR N. ALLEN.

Active Vice President:
DOT. HARDIMAN.

Society Representatives:
AVRIL DEVINE,
COLIN PUGH.

Society Discologist:
COLIN PUGH.

The Crosby Society was established in 1950 by permission of Bing Crosby.

COMMENT...

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE that we are launching a new service to all members, starting immediately. From this month we are undertaking to answer any query about Bing and his associates from any meber who writes to us. So, if you have any query about the old man just write to:

Miss Jean Rainey,
41, Basing Hill,
Wembley Park, MIDDLESEX.

IF YOU want a private reply you should enclose a 2½d. stamped envelope addressed back to yourself or, if you want to see your answer in this journal don't send a stamp - see the next issue of "Crosby Post". This service has been suggested by a member and we take this opportunity of reminding you all that we do appreciate your suggestions at any time.

WE ARE SORRY to have to tell you that Les Gaylor cannot spare time to continue his activities with our club.
DOT HARDIMAN is now our Vice President and COLIN PUGH has consented to review the records. We welcome these two most able colleagues who have been associated with the club since it's inauguration and close by saying, once again, how very sad we are to lose Leslie Gaylor.

Cab Smith's A.F.N Radio Report.

APRIL 23rd.- "Sleigh Ride" started this show with a Christmassy flavour. Jud Conlon's Rhythmaires helped the Groaner grind. CHRISTIAN FORTAZE, who appears with Bing in "LITTLE BOY LOST" came along as first guest, followed by ROSEMARY CLOONEY, who sang an Alice Faye oldie, "YOU'LL NEVER KNOW". Bing did "COME WHAT MAY"and then a Latin-American number, "MARIA MONITA". Rosemary returned to assist Bing in his Road success,"THE MERRY-GO-RUN-AROUND" which the more than able John Scott Trotter musicianised in fine style. The French boy guest, Christian Fortaze did a good little French song and Bing signed off with that grand ballad, "SENTIMENTAL MUSIC" which enjoyed a fine arrangement by John Scott, complete with muted brass.

MAY 6th.- "OPEN UP YOUR HEART" started the proceedings. This cheerful ditty was followed by a Dixieland styling, "SOME SUNNY DAY". ELLA FITGERALD guested first giving us in quick succession,"I'M TRYING", "MY FAVOURITE SONG" and "THE DEVIL AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA". That most freqent visitor to Bing's shows,JOE VENUTI, this time he was introduced by Bing as "the Mad Violinsit", fiddled "LADY BE GOOD". Bing did an excellent treatment of "HEY! ROUND THE CORNER" followed by the Western style, "DON't EVER BE AFRAID TO GO HOME". It was especially good to hear Bing give a wonderful version of his recorded, "WHEN THE WORLD WAS YOUNG". A most welcome old song closed the evening It was "BRIGHT EYES"

Cab says that "The Bing Crosby Radio Show" has now been altered to be transmitted at 8:30 p.m. each Thursday via AFN instead of the old time of 9p.m.. These times are British Summer Time equals of the European time.

The CROSBY WAXWORKS

by COLIN PUGH

Only two mid-May Crosby discs for me to review. this gives me the opportunity to make brief comment. Certain "big disc boys" will be aroused by my entry into record reviewing and thinking "another lamb for the slaughterhouse". Well, I can hit back and can assure you that my reviews (nor anyone else's) can meet with everyone's approval. Bing provides for all tastes in songdom and I shall not review from any one aspect. Someone wrote "Bing and jazz walk hand in hand". I'd hate to review "Holy,Holy" from a jazz aspect. Bing's diversity of song makes it impossible to categorise his work under one heading.

Unfortunatley, Les Gaylor's valuable recording dates will be missing from these notes and, to those who were fond of throwing brickbats and tearing apart the most honest and hardworking collector, I remind them that we owe a very great deal to Les Gaylor. He spent most of his life writing and comparing Crosby record data with all the world's leading record companies and collectors.

The first three sides this month are from "Guys and Dolls" which probably accounts for their insipidity. I can't think why Bing bothers to record these second rate tunes. Recording dates by courtesy of Leslie Gaylor.

05104 (1) "I'VE NEVER BEEN IN LOVE BEFORE"(Mat.L5827A)(Rec.7/9/50) Axel Stordahl orch. accompanies. A slow, sentimental song, nothing outstanding. Bing doesn't "wake up": there's no inspiration for him. Just a few unusual notes by Frank Loser,(sorry)Frank Loesser. (2) "IF I WERE A BELL"(Mat.L5831A)(Rec.7/9/50)Bing with Patty Andrews and Vic Schoen orch. in a ditty with some swing in it. Bing and Patty do a good job with ad libs by Mr. Crosby. Bing 'creates' the mood and it's a pity the raw material wasn't better. In brief a jolly tra la la for all concerned and us.

05105 (1)"MORE I CANNOT WISH YOU"Mat.L6051A.(Recorded 7/2/51). Here is Bing accompanied by John Scott Trotter and his orchestra and the feeble assistance of a choir (Jud Conlon's). It is,perhaps a more unusual type of song which might grow on you but it is not anything to rave about. Even the lyrics in this one make sense but I'd think you'd have to see the show before you really knew what Bing was singing about. As if to save the day, Bing gets into his stride in the last few bars.

Side (2) "I'VE GOT TO FALL IN LOVE AGAIN" (Mat.L6307)(Rec.8/6/51) Even though this is by Van Heusen and Burke it is the best of the four sides and it's the only one not from "Guys and Dolls".With accompaniment by Dave Barbour we are definitely treated to more rhythm here and the whole thing has the comedy touch. It's tempo resembles "Rhythm on the River" and can I hear some similarity of of tune on certain lines? Perhaps the type, tempo and tune could best be compared to another Van Heusen-Burke number from "Bells of St. Mary's" called "Aren't You Glad You're You?". In the USA this song was backed with "Shanghai" on American Decca 27653.

NEW BRUNSWICK TEN INCH LONG PLAYING RECORD .....PRICE 23/1.

"BING CROSBY in THE BLUE OF THE NIGHT". Eight songs as follows:-
Where the blue of the night. Let me call you Sweetheart.
I'll be yours. It could happen to you. We'll gather lilacs.
When you make love to me. It must be true. I surrender dear.
..... BRUNSWICK LA8595.

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Bing Crosby, Retired!

by "THE CADDY"

EMPHATICALLY "NO"! Bing won't retire for many a year - not from all his entertainment activities. For a start, too many people depend on him for their livelihood - he employs quite a few people. Anyway, there's no reason why he should slip into oblivion because the press writers keep reminding their readers that Crosby is 'getting on in years'. Perhaps they forget that Jolson was ten years older than Bing is now when he made his great comeback which gave him more recognition than he had heard of when he slogged away in Braodway musicals and in the first talkies.

Another good example of a middle aged artist gaining world wide popularity was Will Rogers. After rope spinning and chatter for many years in American vaudeville he came to be the foremost and beloved of the American entertainers of his time.

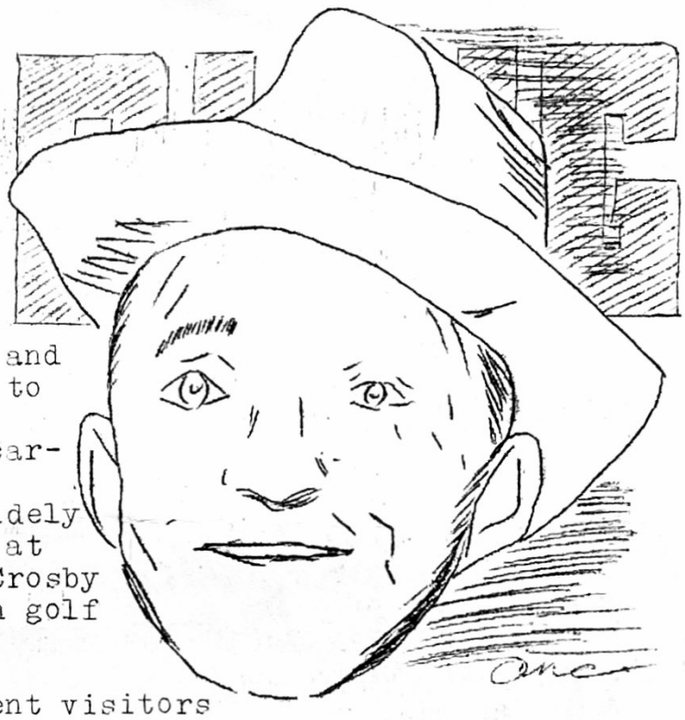
Eddie Cantor doesn't appear so often nowadays on the screen but he is as busy as ever with radio and lately television. He has only got to say yes to any film company and he'll star in a major film production for the movie moguls are certain that the middle aged Cantor can still fill the halls as he did when he made numerous musical comedies for Samuel Goldwyn in the early thirties.

Nearer to home we can name the late 'King of the Scots', Sir Harry Lauder who kept 'right on to the end of the road' never neglecting to do a radio show every so often. Right up to his death he remained a great star. His singing of popular songs in a very ordinary style was a very great draw at all times and, although, his simple songs were never so varied as those offered and served by Bing Crosby the two had much in common. In fact, no one sounds more like Sir Harry than Bing when he adds a Scotch accent as he did in "The Road To Bali".

Bing is enjoying a very long term of world success. His success is so widespread that he will be remembered forever. There is no doubt. When he first swept upon us he had a new and exciting voice. The voice has matured so has the personality and the two have never been better blended than now. It's true that the most listened to voice in the world shows signs of wear but, just try to do without it for a single picture. Bing may now have become a great actor however, he cannot afford to play any character which is not really 'Bing Crosby' simply because the public want Bing as he has always been. While many actors of outstanding merits can play the great dramatic roles created by classic writers akin to William Shakespeare not one of them could ever play Bing Crosby better than Bing himself. You will probably say, "Well, that's common knowledge." If it is, then who could ever hope to fill the gap that would be left by Bing if he chose to retire from the entertainment business? While Bing remains in this world only he is wanted by his public who have always known of him to play the part of the typical every-day American man who claims to do nothing very good but by the sheer easy atitude he adopts enetertains the masses better than any other person ever has. His is a character which is truer and more realistic than any. It is the character which is now accepted by people of every creed. He has proved that he is no lifeless bobbysox idol. He has proved that he can sing any kind of song better than anyone else.

No, the old Groaner won't let us down by going into retirement while he has so much to offer - and he will always have much to offer. At the age of fifty-three he remains at the top of his proffession and is always just that little bit better than the new entertainer because he never thinks he is and would certainly never say he was. He is the living example of how great an artist can be. In the coming years all the great performers will be judged to be 'nearly as good as Crosby' or 'better than Crosby'. It's safe to assume that the latter would be an overstatement especially to those of us who can claim to have lived in 'the Crosby era'.

Louella Parsons on



PALM SPRINGS, THAT DESERT RESORT where the glories of Mother Nature and Mama Hollywood can be appreciated for 50 dollars per day and upwards have recently been treated to the eye catching spectacle of the daily appearance of Bing Crosby's car- Bing, sitting up in front with his chauffeur: and Mona Freeman (his widely publicized "new interest") sitting at the back with 14 year old Lindsay Crosby -- all but the chauffeur armed with golf clubs.

The local inhabitants and frequent visitors are used to Hollywood stars journeying down to Palm Springs to "carry on" so, perhaps it's quite natural for them to tell the world that Bing Crosby is doing the town with Mona Freeman.

Let's examine the evidence provided by Palm Springs. First, it's no secret that Bing and Mona are, what the Americans call, dating. The Sun Bathers say: "It can't be serious. Otherwise, they wouldn't be seen so early after Bing's wife's death. Bing has known Mona since she was a kid on the Paramount lot. He thinks no more of her than he would if playing golf with local Palm Springs resident, Phil Harris."

On the other hand the Tennis Raqueteers sy: "It MUST be romance for them to be seen constantly together because Bing is a stickler for propriety. He would not risk the inevitable publicity which would be a resylt of him being seen so often with Mona Freeman." Then they would stop talking for here comes Bing with Mona - every body stops to watch for their is no doubt that they make a handsome couple. Bing has picked up a terrific tan to replace the pallor that he presented months before and after Dixie's death. Mona looks as pretty as a doll and is also tanned plus blode hair which is only slightly curled. She wears no make up except for a bit of pink lipstick.

They seem completely unconscious of all the watchers and just greet the people they know seldom inviting anyone to join them. The next step is golf, and they are usually joined by Lindsay.

Dinner usually finds them at the home of Bing's producer, Bill Perlberg - and, up to about 9:30 Lindsay is with them. From then on comes the puzzling development. Bing takes Lindsay home and usually drops Mona at her house, but not always for Bing occasionally takes Mona to the odd night spot where he will sometimes do a song with, say, Joe Frisco or will just remain quietly at a table with Mona. No hand holding, not much talking, no dancing.

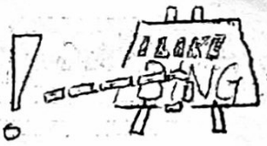
Now, there's quite a chage in Mona who was once the belle of Palm Spring with so many beaux at her feet. She would drink with one and dance with another. A subtle change has come over Mona. She now keeps a very accurate check on who's calling on her 'phone, in fact Elizabeth Taylor's ex-husband, Nicky Hilton started quite an attack of rage when when Mona got that certain call from that certain party when he happened to be in her comapny once.

To Mona simple frocks and oufits are now the order off the day and no followers - and no cocktails either!

One important point I should bring up is that Mona is a divorced woman and it isn't really necessary to add that Bing Crosby is a devout catholic. I still stick to what I said before in "Dixie and Bing" - Bing and his boys will be alone for a long, long time.

JEAN RAINEY says .....

Wake up at the back there!



AS YOU CAN SEE there is very little news from me about Bing Crosby this month so I'll take time off to write to you and to remind you that "The Crosby Society" CAN be useful to the Groaner and his friends (including yourselves).

I'll start by assuming that everyone in this club is an admirer of Harry Lillis Crosby. Some to different degrees than others or, so it would seem when we consider the small amount of interest shown in the club by about 75% of our total number of members. (Will you active 25% please disregard this page.)

I know that, strictly speaking, once you have paid your subscription you are not bound to do anything other than read and digest your now monthly journals, yes, read them, cast them aside and forget them.

Now, how about stringing along with us? How about writing about this and that - your likes and dislikes - what you'd like to see altered. It is really nice to hear from you occasionally. And it would assist us, (Arthur, Dot and I) because we know we can remain 'in a rut' for years without knowing it. Your personal constructive criticism is what we so urgently require.

"Crosby Post" is your magazine and we'd like to have the opportunity of printing your articles and your views in it.

I don't know just how much apathy there is amongst the supporters of other entertainers but, I do know that the apathy of the Crosby crowd in England is appalling. For instance, you switch on "Family Favourites" and hope to hear a record by Bing, but do you think of writing to the BBC anf asking for your particular request? Judging by the recent scarcity of Crosby on the BBC disc shows you don't. Did you know that, when Radio Luxembourg announced they were starting a weekly "Bing Sings" programme they had such a terrific response from all their listeners that they had to send a telegraph to our club vice-president asking him to get in touch with our club members to enquire what they would like to hear so they could start the series? Good thing the sponsors of the radio series liked Crosby enough to have faith in him.

Wouldn't you like to see just one letter praising Bing Crosby in "Picturegoer" - you would? - then why not write it.

When you've really enjoyed a Crosby film do you write and tell him about it. Believe me, he does like to hear from you for you and you alone can really assist him to continue entertaining you as you would like. Write to Bing right now - criticise him, applaud him, suggest to him. If you write now to his Hollywood address (9028, Sunset Boulevard, Hollywoood, Calif.) he'll get the letter when he returns to his office. It's a 4d. stamp or at least 1/- via Air Mail.

Before I end this "nagging epistle" let me ask you all to do these three things every time you get "Crosby Post". (i) Write a postcard to the BBC or Luxembourg and request a Bing disc on a record show, (ii) write a letter to Picturegoer or some other mag. and 'start something' about Bing and, finally (iii) write to the man who gives you entertainment like you've never had before, yes, write and tell Bing you are his supporter and if he knows that he will turn in an even better performance. That's the truth!!!

Remember, somebody else can write any of the above letters but the best letter will be the one you sent so, don't make it "SOMEBODY ELSE NOT ME" - you'll feel better if it's you for somebody else isn't really you just like Sinatra isn't really Crosby!